

HOUSE BILL 2796
By Turner L

AN ACT to name a segment of Interstate Highway 55 in Shelby County in honor of the late Coretta Scott King.

WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King was a seminal leader in this nation's civil rights movement who worked assiduously to advance civil rights and improve opportunities for African Americans; and

WHEREAS, after her husband's assassination in Memphis in 1968 prior to a planned march, Coretta Scott King went to Memphis herself and finished the march; she carried on Dr. King's important work in a multitude of ways for nearly forty years; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, Coretta Scott King was honored with the National Freedom Award by the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis for her pioneering work in civil rights; and

WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King has left behind an indelible legacy as the first lady of the civil rights movement and as the loving wife and partner of the heroic Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

WHEREAS this General Assembly desires to designate the segment of Interstate Highway 55 in Shelby County from the Tennessee-Mississippi state boundary to such highway's intersection with Interstate Highway 240 as the "Coretta Scott King Memorial Highway" as a lasting tribute to an uncommonly gifted and dedicated woman who made innumerable personal sacrifices to secure civil rights and basic justice for all of her fellow Americans, regardless of their color, class, religion, gender, or sexual orientation; she often reminded people of what Dr. King had said on the subject: 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.'; and

WHEREAS, this designation is especially appropriate because the proposed "Coretta Scott King Memorial Highway" will join Interstate Highway 240, which was named in

remembrance of her late husband, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Chapter No. 728 of the Public Acts of 1988; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the segment of Interstate Highway 55 in Shelby County from the Tennessee-Mississippi state boundary northwestward to such highway's intersection with Interstate Highway 240 (Martin Luther King Expressway) is hereby designated the "Coretta Scott King Memorial Highway" to honor the memory and celebrate the bountiful life of the first lady of the civil rights Movement.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the segment of Interstate Highway 55 described in Section 1 as the "Coretta Scott King Memorial Highway".

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.